

**House File 2032 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2032

BY ISENHART

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act creating the public health advancement commission.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1.   NEW SECTION.   135.163A   Public health advancement  
2   commission.

3     1.   a.   A strong and effective public health system is  
4   essential to meet the obligations of public health agencies to  
5   protect and improve the population's health and to respond to  
6   crises and ongoing challenges.

7     b.   A comprehensive health policy is necessary to align  
8   governmental public health agency structure, function, and  
9   administration, health-sector investment, and private sector  
10  involvement to work more effectively as part of a broader  
11  public health system.

12    c.   The public health infrastructure should act as the  
13  clear organizational hub for public health activities to  
14  provide better linkages to other governmental agencies  
15  with health-related responsibilities and to strategies that  
16  strengthen the capacities of public health agencies to perform  
17  core functions.

18    2.   The department shall establish a public health  
19  advancement commission to develop and maintain an effective  
20  and efficient public health system based on the core functions  
21  of public health and the provision of essential services  
22  to all Iowans by monitoring and addressing public health  
23  infrastructure, priorities, capacity, and financing. The  
24  department shall involve the wide range of professionals,  
25  volunteers, agencies, and organizations engaged in  
26  health-related responsibilities and public health activities  
27  in the work of the commission.

28    3.   The purposes of the public health advancement commission  
29  shall include all of the following:

30     a.   To provide leadership and serve as a resource to foster  
31  and maintain an effective and efficient public health system.

32     b.   To convene stakeholders and streamline efforts to  
33  encourage collaboration and synergy between community partners  
34  in reducing fragmentation and supporting state-level and  
35  community-level integration to most effectively and efficiently

1 address social determinants of health and to meet population  
2 health goals.

3     *c.* To provide a venue for educating and informing  
4 stakeholders and interested parties about the role of public  
5 health.

6     4. The duties of the commission shall include all of the  
7 following:

8     *a.* Assessing the current public health infrastructure to  
9 determine if and how the core functions of public health and  
10 essential public health services are being carried out and  
11 provided in the state and to determine the current inventory,  
12 baseline, and mapping of public health services and how they  
13 are being funded to determine gaps and unmet needs.

14     *b.* Assessing existing policies, systems, and factors  
15 relating to the core functions of public health and the  
16 delivery of essential public health services to determine  
17 opportunities for improvement.

18     *c.* Reviewing and guiding strategic state-level planning  
19 and policies related to public health infrastructure, roles  
20 and responsibilities, and system assessment and performance to  
21 align the public health system on the state and local levels to  
22 ensure the delivery of essential public health services in each  
23 area of the state. Such alignment shall focus on improving  
24 the administration of programs and policies to reflect and  
25 satisfactorily address the specific needs of local communities  
26 and vulnerable populations and to eliminate health disparities;  
27 promoting primary prevention and early intervention to improve  
28 the overall health status of Iowans; and addressing the myriad  
29 of current and future threats to public health by establishing  
30 clear lines of responsibility, coordination, accountability,  
31 and communication.

32     *d.* Developing an inventory of public and private resources  
33 that support public health, and through coordination,  
34 collaborative planning, and leveraging of public health and  
35 private assets, link and strengthen both governmental and

1 nongovernmental roles that comprise the public health system at  
2 the state and local levels. The commission shall identify and  
3 explore other public and private funding sources that support  
4 the delivery of public health services and shall review and  
5 implement a process to braid public health resources together  
6 to effectively reach the highest-risk populations, provide  
7 for more efficient program administration, and ensure that  
8 essential public health services are delivered to all Iowans  
9 throughout the state.

10     *e.* Implementing a local public health infrastructure that  
11 utilizes the strengths of the existing network of public  
12 health organizations and community partners to streamline  
13 administration, increase local community capacity, and ensure a  
14 more coordinated system for delivery of essential public health  
15 services through multisector community health coalitions. The  
16 community health coalitions shall engage representatives that  
17 reflect the local community including those who represent  
18 vulnerable populations, those most at risk, and those with the  
19 necessary expertise to assess health and quality of life needs  
20 and assets, create and coordinate plans to address identified  
21 needs, and mobilize resources to implement those plans.  
22 The commission shall develop core competencies, functions,  
23 indicators, and performance standards for the community health  
24 coalitions.

25     *f.* Reviewing the public health systems in other states  
26 and countries to inform changes in the public health  
27 infrastructure; determine best practice models and options for  
28 a comprehensive statewide public health framework, including  
29 a communications infrastructure; and compare how comparable  
30 public health functions are structured statewide and at the  
31 substate levels.

32     *g.* Creating an interdepartmental subcommittee to inventory  
33 resources and develop a plan to integrate responsibilities  
34 and funding sources to support public health priorities and  
35 functions in the state. Each member agency of the subcommittee

1 shall be tasked with determining how to integrate the core  
2 competencies, functions, and performance standards of the  
3 agency into the work and funding of the public health system.

4 *h.* Developing a communications strategy to utilize in  
5 communicating with local public health agencies and community  
6 partners, as well as the general public.

7 *i.* Developing and implementing data reporting tools and data  
8 analysis to provide a basis for policy development, performance  
9 measures, and accountability.

10 *j.* Providing ongoing technical assistance to local public  
11 health entities and community health coalitions.

12 *k.* Addressing the need for an adequately sized and  
13 appropriately trained workforce to respond to the array  
14 of public health needs, including by identifying public  
15 health workforce needs and addressing workforce training and  
16 competency.

17 5. *a.* The membership of the commission shall be selected by  
18 the director and shall include representatives of all of the  
19 following:

20 (1) Local public health agencies.

21 (2) State agencies involved in protecting and improving  
22 population health.

23 (3) The Iowa public health association.

24 (4) Emergency management agencies.

25 (5) Emergency medical services.

26 (6) School districts.

27 (7) Institutions of higher education, including but not  
28 limited to the university of Iowa college of public health.

29 (8) Health care providers, health clinics, and community  
30 health centers.

31 (9) Area agencies on aging and senior services providers.

32 (10) Mental health and disability services regions.

33 (11) Other community-based organizations, issue specific  
34 coalitions, and civic groups.

35 (12) Environmental advocacy.

1 (13) Planning, zoning, and transportation agencies.

2 (14) Organizations, programs, and advisory groups involved  
3 in the healthy Iowans planning and implementation efforts.

4 b. The commission may utilize the assistance of others with  
5 relevant public health-related expertise when necessary to  
6 carry out the commission's responsibilities.

7 6. The commission shall submit a report to the governor  
8 and the general assembly annually by January 15, including  
9 recommendations for improvement in the public health system.

10 EXPLANATION

11 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
12 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

13 This bill creates the public health advancement commission.

14 The bill directs the department of public health to  
15 establish the commission to develop and maintain an effective  
16 and efficient public health system based on the core functions  
17 of public health and the provision of essential services  
18 to all Iowans by monitoring and addressing public health  
19 infrastructure, priorities, capacity, and financing. The  
20 department shall involve the wide range of professionals,  
21 volunteers, agencies, and organizations engaged in public  
22 health activities in the work of the commission.

23 The bill specifies the purposes, duties, and membership of  
24 the commission, and requires the commission to submit a report  
25 to the governor and the general assembly annually by January  
26 15, including recommendations for improvement in the public  
27 health system.